Hybrid Seeds

1478. SHRI G G. SWELL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an increased amount of hybrid seeds are being produced in the country by bio-technology;

(b) whether the phenomenon is likely to become an integral part of our agriculture;

(c) whether these seeds can be reproduced and multiplied; and

(d) what are the areas in which hybrid seeds are being produced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) (i) Two research projects have already been funded since March 1989 by the Deptt. of Bio-technology for the development of hybrid varieties/seeds by plant bio-technology namely, development of cytoplasmic male sterile (CMS) lines and proteolast route regeneration technique in rice. In addition, DBT has supported a number of R&D projects and six centres for plant Molecular Biology (CPMBs) for developing improved and high yielding varieties in plant agriculture.

(ii) In crop plants no hybrid seed is being produced in the country by the use of biotechnology.

(iii) Once hybrid seeds are grown they can not be reproduced as hybrid. In fact they become F2. (second generation). As such hybrid seeds are required to be produced a fresh each year.

Increase in prices of milk and ghee by Mother Dairy

1479. SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of increase in the prices of milk and ghee sold by Mother Dairy in Delhi during the last three months; and

(b) the reasons for increase in prices and what is the profit to the Mother Dairy due to the increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Mother Dairy increased the consumer price of standardised milk from Rs. 8.50 per litre to Rs. 9.00 per litre w.e.f. 18-09-1991 during the last 3 months. There has been no increase in the consumer price of double toned milk during last three months. Mother Dairy does not sell ghee.

(b) The increase in price was necessitated due to increased procurement price paid to state cooperative dairy federations for receipts of fresh milk. The average sale of Standardised Milk is 30,000 litres per day. The additional revenue earned as a result of the above increase in price is only Rs 15,000/- per day.

Fodder production

1480. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the available fodder resources meet only 50 per cent of the demand in the country; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to increase fodder production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) The present fodder production in our country is not sufficient to meet the demand of existing livestock population.

(b) The Government of India has taken up or propose to take up the following programmes for increasing fodder production in the country.

(i) *Central Sector Programmes*

(a) Quality Fodder Seed Production Technology through the Seven Regional Stations for Forage Production and Demonstration and the Central Fodder Seed Production Farm, Hessarghatta.

(b) Fodder Minikit Demonstration Programme.

(ii) *Centrally Sponsored Scheme*

(a) Strengthening of Fodder Seed Farms in the States.

(b) Fodder Seed Production through Registered Growers.

(c) Programme for enrichment of Straws and Cellulosic wastes.

(d) Establishment of Silvi-Pasture systems for increasing biomass production.

(e) Assistance for grassland Development including grass reserves.

(f) Area oriented fuel wood and fodder projects.

*(g) Soil Conservation in the catchment of river valley project.

*(h) Integrated watershed management in the catchment of flood prone rivers.

*Development of pastures and fodder is one of the components of these schemes.

Agricultural and industrial production

1481. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the terms of trade between agricultural produce and industrial production have remained balanced since the year 1967;

(b) what is the quantity of wheat that equated the price of a 35 H.P. tractor in the year 1981 and 1991; and

(c) what was the price index in procurement season of wheat vis-a-vis the procurement prices in 1981-1991 taking the Base year 1970-71 as 100?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The indices of prices received and prices paid by the farmers i.e., terms of trade (Base 1970-71 = 100) increased from 83.3 in 1980-81 to 88.2 in 1990-91. This indicates a slight improvement in the terms of trade.

(b) On an average the quantity of wheat equating the price of a 35 HP tractor was 461 quintals in 1981 and 573 quintals in 1991.

(c) The annual average of Wholesale Price Index Number of Wheat (Base 1970-71 = 100) was 191.6 for the procurement season of 1991-92 and 292.0 for the procurement season of 1988-89 (latest available for the old series).

World Bank assistance for agricultural projects

1482. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of the Agricultural Development projects being assisted in the country by the World Bank; and

(b) what is the total cost of these projects and what is the amount of assistance received from the World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Presently only one in Tamil Nadu. Similar projects for some other states are under discussion.